

Appln. No. 10/579,013
Amendment dated November 14, 2008
Response to Office Action of August 21, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3 and 4 and amend claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A device for actuating a sliding closure applied to a vessel containing molten metal once the vessel has been positioned on a ladle rotating tower, with a piston/cylinder unit that can be introduced into a holding
5 element of the sliding closure, comprising a drive shaft that can be coupled to a slide rod of the sliding closure,

wherein the piston/cylinder unit can be introduced into the holding element and withdrawn from the same by means of a controllable manipulator,

10 wherein the piston/cylinder unit is arranged on a lifting frame of the manipulator affixed to the ladle rotating tower and can be introduced into a guide groove of the holding element transversely in a vertical direction in relation to the

Appln. No. 10/579,013
Amendment dated November 14, 2008
Response to Office Action of August 21, 2008

15 displacement direction of the sliding closure by adjusting the
same with a guide element,

wherein the device further comprises means for positioning
the lifting frame in relation to the holding element during the
adjusting of the same and prior to introducing the guide element
into the guide groove, and

20 wherein the piston/cylinder unit is affixed to a vertically
adjustable lifting frame of the manipulator and can be introduced
into a holding element open at the bottom and equipped with the
guide groove with its guide element.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). The device according to Claim
[[4]] 1, wherein the lifting frame is affixed to a lifting part
that can be vertically adjusted in relation to a rotating part of
the manipulator, whereby the rotating part is tiltably positioned
5 around a vertical axis within a rotating housing affixed to the
ladle rotating tower.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). The device according to
Claim 5, wherein the rotating part with the lifting part

Appln. No. 10/579,013
Amendment dated November 14, 2008
Response to Office Action of August 21, 2008

equipped with the lifting frame guided within the same can be tilted between a parking position and a working position, whereby
5 the piston/cylinder unit can be introduced into the holding element.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The device according to Claim 6, wherein the rotating part can be tilted by almost 90° between the parking position and the working position.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The device according to Claim [[3]] 1, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding
5 element, which can each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The device according to Claim 8, wherein the positioning bolts ~~are equipped with~~ comprise ball heads at their free ends, and can be centered together with these within funnel-shaped introduction part of the recesses that widen
5 at the bottom.

Appln. No. 10/579,013
Amendment dated November 14, 2008
Response to Office Action of August 21, 2008

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). The device according to Claim 8, wherein the positioning bolts of the piston/cylinder unit can be offset in the direction of the sliding closure and located at both sides of the same.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). The device according to Claim [[3]] 1, wherein the piston/cylinder unit is affixed to a vertically adjustable lifting frame of the manipulator and can be introduced into a holding element open at the bottom and equipped
5 with the guide groove with its guide element.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). The device according to Claim [[4]] 1, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding
5 element, which can each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented). The device according to Claim 5, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding

Appln. No. 10/579,013
Amendment dated November 14, 2008
Response to Office Action of August 21, 2008

- 5 element, which can each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

- Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The device according to Claim 6, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding
- 5 element, which can each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

- Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The device according to Claim 7, wherein the means for positioning the lifting frame are formed by two positioning bolts affixed to the holding frame and aligned in an upward direction in relation to the holding
- 5 element, which can each be introduced into a vertical recess open at the bottom of a non-displaceable holding element during the lifting frame adjustment with their free ends.

- Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The device according to Claim 9, wherein the positioning bolts of the piston/cylinder

Appln. No. 10/579,013
Amendment dated November 14, 2008
Response to Office Action of August 21, 2008

unit can be offset in the direction of the sliding closure and
located at both sides of the same.